

We claim:

1. An antimicrobial composition comprising, in water, a haloacetamide, an acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~^{xanthan} gum, and a buffer of sodium acetate and acetic acid in an amount effective to maintain a pH in the range of 1-5.
2. A composition of claim 1 in the form of a suspension.
3. A composition of claim 1 wherein said haloacetamide is 2,2-dibromo 3-nitropropionamide.
4. A composition of claim 1 wherein said haloacetamide is 2-bromo-2-cyano-N,N-dimethylacetamide.
5. A composition of claim 1 wherein said acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~^{xanthan} gum contains no more than 1.2% acetic acid or acetate groups by weight.
6. A composition of claim 1 wherein said buffer comprises sodium acetate and acetic acid in a weight ratio of 1.5:1 to 2.5:1.
7. A suspension of at least 5% by weight of a haloacetamide in water including acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~^{xanthan} gum suspending agent, and a buffer comprising 1-2% sodium acetate and 0.5-1% acetic acid.
8. A suspension of claim 7 wherein said haloacetamide comprises 10% to 45% haloacetamide, and said buffer is present in an amount effective to maintain a pH in said suspension of 1-5.
9. A suspension of claim 7 wherein said sodium acetate and acetic acid are present in a molar ratio of 1.5:1 to 2.5:1.

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10. A suspension of claim 7 wherein said haloacetamide is present in an amount from 5% by weight to 60% by weight.
11. A suspension of claim 7 wherein said haloacetamide is present in an amount from 10% to 45% by weight and said buffer is effective to maintain the pH at 3.8-4.2.
12. A suspension of claim 7 wherein said haloacetamide is present in an amount from 15% to 25% by weight.
13. A suspension of claim 7 wherein said acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~ ^{xanthan} gum is present in an amount from 0.1% to 5% by weight.
14. A suspension of claim 7 wherein said acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~ ^{xanthan} gum is present in an amount from 0.5% to 4% by weight.
15. A stable antimicrobial composition comprising water, a haloacetamide in an effective antimicrobial amount, an acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~ ^{xanthan} gum in an amount effective to form a suspension of said haloacetamide in said water, sodium acetate, and acetic acid, said sodium acetate and acetic acid being present in a ratio and amount effective to inhibit the degradation of said haloacetamide by hydrolysis.
16. A composition of claim 15 wherein said haloacetamide is 2,2 dibromo 3-nitrilopropionamide.
17. A composition of claim 16 wherein said 2,2 ^{CAB} dibromo 3-nitrilopropionamide is present in an amount from 5% to 60% by weight.
18. A composition of claim 17 wherein said sodium acetate and acetic acid are present in a molar ratio of 1.5:1 to 2.5.